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Derbyshire S18 3BW (GB). **HODGE, Robert** [GB/GB]; 36 Binswood End, Harbury, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV33 9LN (GB).

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(74) Agents: **CARDUS, Alan et al.**; Marconi Intellectual Property, Crompton Close, Basildon, Essex SS14 3BA (GB).

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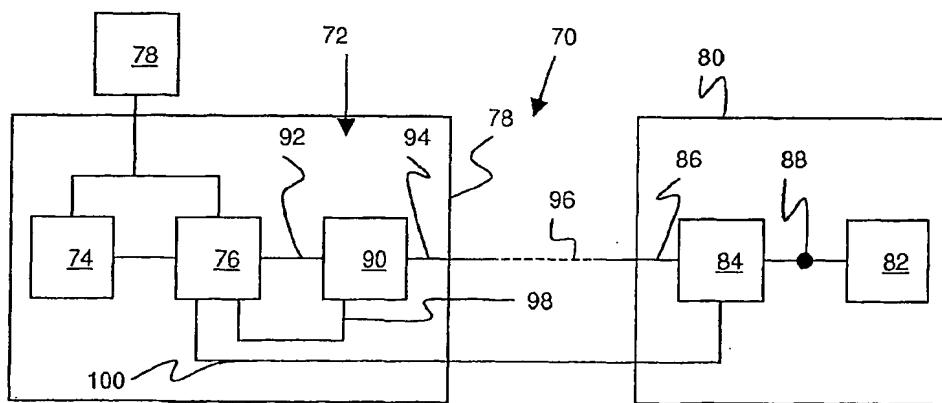
(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): MARCONI UK INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY [GB/GB]; New Century Park, P.O. Box 53, Coventry, West Midlands CV3 1HJ (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **REES, George** [GB/GB]; 43 Firthwood Road, Coal Aston, Dronfield,

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(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: A communication system (70), comprising an SDH network (72) and an Ethernet network (82), wherein the SDH network (72) has a network management system (78) to monitor the functionality of SDH network elements (74, 76) in the SDH network (72). The SDH network (72) is arranged to transport Ethernet information in SDH format across the SDH network (72), and is at least partially situated at a host site (78). The Ethernet network (82) is situated at a user site (80). The SDH network (72) having SDH network elements (76, 90) arranged to convert the SDH format Ethernet information into Ethernet format information for transportation between the host (78) and user sites (80) via a link (96), and the Ethernet network having a Ethernet network element (84) to receive the Ethernet format information. The SDH network element (76) can request the status of the Ethernet network element (82) when the SDH network element (76) is required to update the SDH network management system (78) with status information on the functionality of the SDH network element (76) and Ethernet network element (84).

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